Nut sector: quality and marketing improvement plans (Regulation (EEC) No 1035/72), specific aid for hazelnuts

2001/0275(CNS) - 19/02/2002

The committee unanimously adopted the report by Carlos BAUTISTA OJEDA (Greens/EFA, E) amending the Commission proposal under the consultation procedure. Whilst it welcomed the proposal for a second one-year extension (up to June 2002) of the aid granted to producers' organisations for quality and marketing improvement plans for nuts, the committee saw this only as a transitional measure which should be followed, by 1 June 2002, by a proposal for a new regime offering permanent support to the nut sector, including a flat-rate aid per hectare. It condemned the Commission's proposal to exclude some producer organisations from the specific aid granted for hazelnuts and also rejected the Commission's plan to reduce the EU's contribution to funding aid for the nut sector from 82% to 75%. Lastly, the committee called for a Geographical Information System (GIS) to be established by the end of 2002 for the purposes of monitoring nut production as part of an integrated management and control system.